GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1991
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006
DRILLING OF HORIZONTAL OIL WELL
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has successfully drilled the first ever horizontal oil well in the North-East region, by commissioning well No. Makum-17 in Tinsukia district, in collaboration with Newsco Deviation and Horizontal Drilling Services Inc. of Calgary (Canada);

(b) if so, whether the oil wells drilled by this process yield oil many times higher than vertical wells in the same structure;

(c) if so, the salient features of this process; and

(d) the steps being taken to popularize adoption of this process?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) Oil India Limited (OIL) has successfully drilled the first ever horizontal well in Makum in Tinsukia district in Assam. M/s Nowsco Deviation and Horizontal Drilling Services Inc. was, however, engaged as a contractor only, not as collaborator. The first horizontal well drilled by OIL in Makum in Tinsukia district, Assam yielded crude oil production 2.5 to 3.0 times of a conventional vertical well in the area.

(c) It is a technique of drilling wells horizontally within a oil/gas bearing reservoir; it provides longer section and larger drainage area in the producing reservoir leading to improved production from the well. The drilling of such horizontal wells requires special tools, equipment and expertise.

(d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), OIL and private / Joint Venture companies are drilling horizontal wells depending upon the technical requirements.